



St Ronan's Presbyterian Church
Eastbourne

Record

August 2021

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|-------------|-------------------|--------|
| 1 August | Lionel Nunns..... | 9.30am |
| 8 August | Reg Weeks..... | 9.30am |
| 15 August | Ross Scott..... | 9.30am |
| 22 August | John Harris..... | 9.30am |
| 29 August | Doug Rogers..... | 9.30am |
| 5 September | TBA..... | 9.30am |

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Power Hour – Sundays 9.30am

Breakfast Prayer – Tuesdays 7.30am

Mainly Music – Thursdays 9.15-11.15am

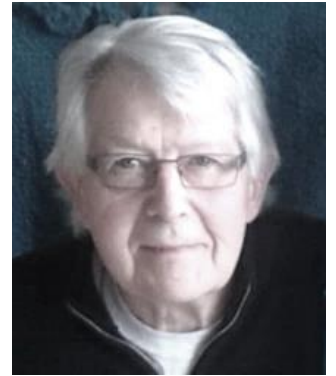
St Ronan's Pastoral Care

For pastoral care needs, please contact our Pastoral Care Co-ordinators,

Colin Dalziel 562 7238 or Mary Williams 568 3216

Children need laptops...

"Children need laptops" said Collin Powell, American politician, diplomat, and 4-star general who served as the first African American Secretary of State. But he didn't mean a computer!

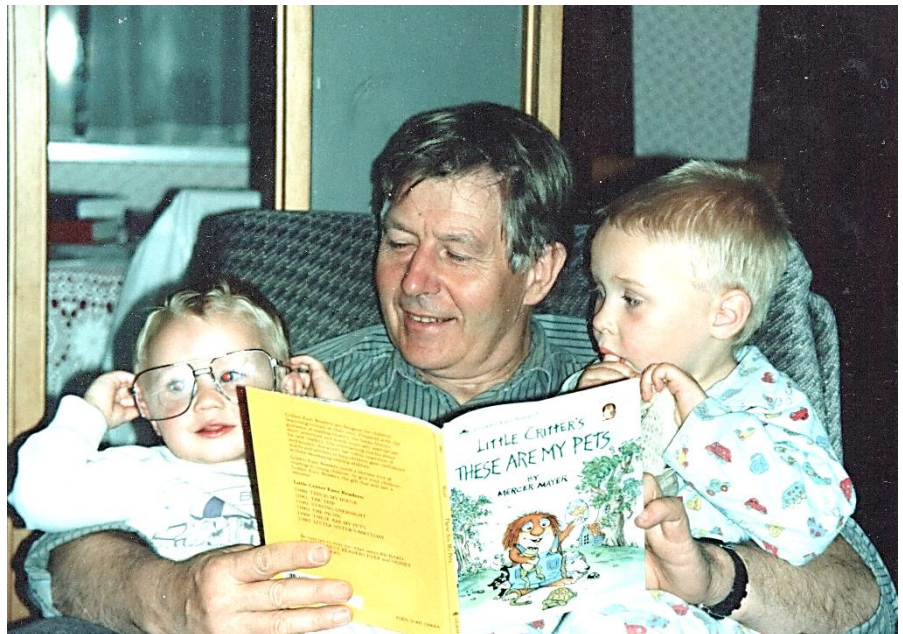


"All children need a laptop. Not a computer, but a human laptop. Mums, dads, grannies and grandpas, aunts, uncles - someone to hold them, read to them, teach them. Loved ones who will embrace them and pass on the experience, rituals and knowledge of a hundred previous generations. Loved ones who will pass to the next generation their expectations of them, their hopes and their dreams."

The TV interviews with the mums, dads, family members and supporters of our up-and-coming Olympic athletes have revealed just how important these values and support have been in helping them achieve their personal best in their chosen sports.

Further, the huge respect and even friendship which Olympic athletes have for their competitors far eclipses any rivalry that may be a necessary part of striving for that hoped-for medal. Witness our young triathlete bronze-medalist who stooped to assist the one who beat him to the finish and then collapsed: the tears and embraces between our women's rugby sevens and the opposing French team: and just today the sight of the two top high-jump competitors who decided to share the gold because they were equal, rather than have a jump-off.

Children pick up attitudes from their parents at a very early age. So modeling the attitude of respect for others and fair play, as well as enthusiastic encouragement and support, are equally important when urging them on from the sideline or talking over the game or their performance after the event.



That is surely the foundation on which our current crop of high performers have built their sporting ethic. They are already communicating it to their many young fans in schools up and down the country.

As well as providing loving laps for our young ones, let us also play our part in fostering these ideals. They are so consistent with the way of Jesus.

Reg Weeks

[Reg's two grandsons in the photo are now in their 30s and have been competitive sailors nationally since their teens, as have their father and mother. Their younger brother (not yet part of the family when this photo was taken) won the OK dinghy under 21s World Championship in 2013. Sailing is still part of their leisure activity and the one who is trying on Reg's glasses now has two boys of his own. Ed.]

Clerk's corner...

Church ladder: We have a new one. It's chained to the fence. The padlock code is secret...

Pews: We've rearranged these to create more space up front. This is an experiment. It's easy to restore...

Waste stream: Till now, all St Ronan's waste has gone to landfill in a large (240 L) *Waste Management* bin. It's been full up each week, much of the volume has been recyclable...



With the new era of greater social conscience, HCC has established a system of bins, so we now have the opportunity to separate the recyclable from the non-recyclable. Sadly, there's still a whole lot of stuff that can't be recycled (but could be) - but improvement beats deterioration. We can expect further improvements in the near future, led by both national and local government...

Outdoors: St Ronan's now has: (1) a big, **green-lid**, wheelie bin for green-waste, (2) a big, **yellow-lid**, wheelie bin for plastics + paper + metal recycling, (3) a small, **red-lid**, wheelie bin for landfill items and (4) a small, **pale-blue**, open bin for glass-recycling. Our insurers want these stored away from our buildings - they're worried about fire (NE corner of the lawn).

Indoors: Our familiar indoor lidded bins are now all labelled **LANDFILL**. Our cleaners will empty these into the red-lid landfill bin outside.

New, indoors, are two, clean, pale-blue, recycling bins. These are on the benches in our two kitchens. Up off the floor to protect our small children. These are marked **RECYCLING**.

You'll see I've re-purposed these 'glass' bins to receive **all** types of recycling - **clean** paper, **clean** plastic and **clean** (unbroken) glass. Our cleaners will sort these indoor 'general recycling' bins into •the 'glass' recycling bin and •the 'plastics+paper+metal' recycling bin outside.



Things to note:

- Don't put baby's nappies in the indoor bins (yuk). Take these directly to the red-lid landfill bin outside.
- Damp paper towels are *not* recyclable.
- A dirty recyclable item contaminates a whole truckload of clean recycling – consigning it to landfill. Please wash all items for recycling.
- The HCC can recycle only plastic types marked '1' or '2' or '5' (not those marked '3', '4', '6' or '7'). *Incidentally, the recycling bins are correctly labelled – but some of HCC's own printed information incorrectly omits '5'. I have checked this out and advised HCC of the conflict...*

In the next months, I'd expect to see (a) an increase in the range of plastics able to be recycled and (b) a decrease in the range of plastics used by producers and marketers of our domestic purchases.

I've put up signage around the Ed Block to inform/remind all our users to fit in with this new waste stream system. It's a bit less straightforward than just chucking it all in the landfill - but just think of your grandchildren...!

e: slang@xtra.co.nz **t:** 562 8752 **m:** 021 222 0383

Sandy Lang

Foodbank AGM...

You are warmly invited to morning tea with fellow Foodbank volunteers and supporters on:

Thursday 26 August, at 10am

at

St Mark's Church, Woburn Road.



Morning tea will be provided and it's a great opportunity to have a chat to packers from other teams, the current Committee and our regular supporters.

Morning tea will be followed by a short AGM where you can catch up with what's been happening during the year.

We do hope you can make it. If not, you can send apologies by contacting the Foodbank on (04) 568 7392 or by email huttfoodbank@gmail.com

Please let us know if you would like to be more involved, perhaps by joining our small and happy Committee group. We need you...! Ngā mihi

Barbara Langford (Secretary)

Sermons we remember...

If you have gone to church most of your life, by the time you reach my age (61 years young!) you will probably have heard thousands of messages from the pulpit. Two of my former ministers' sermons spring to mind as the most memorable.



- The first, by Rev Ian McLeary, was on Jesus's Parable of the Sower. He said that what causes the seed (God's word) not to mature and bear fruit can be different things: **hardship**, **riches**, or **ease** (aka "the cares of the world").

Looking at King David's life as an example, David seemed to weather huge difficulties with a faith that made him rely on God; but it appears his midlife power and influence was where he stumbled. I guess that any of these stumbling blocks can be true for most people, hence the message in Jesus's parable and the challenge to remain constant in life's varying circumstances.

- The second sermon from my not-misspent youth came from Rev Martyn McKessar, who spoke about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. He noted that when Lazarus came out of the tomb, he still had the linen wrappings that the dead were covered in, and this impeded his movement. Jesus told the disciples to "unwrap him and let him go!"

Martyn defined God's work as raising the dead, and the work of current-day disciples as those actions which help their friends to live their faith, free of unnecessary ties.

These, and a few other messages have stayed with me for over three decades.

I wonder if others would like to share any of their "*Most Memorable Messages*" with readers of the Record?

I'd like to read them...!



Gill Burke

Rood screen - The colours of prayer...

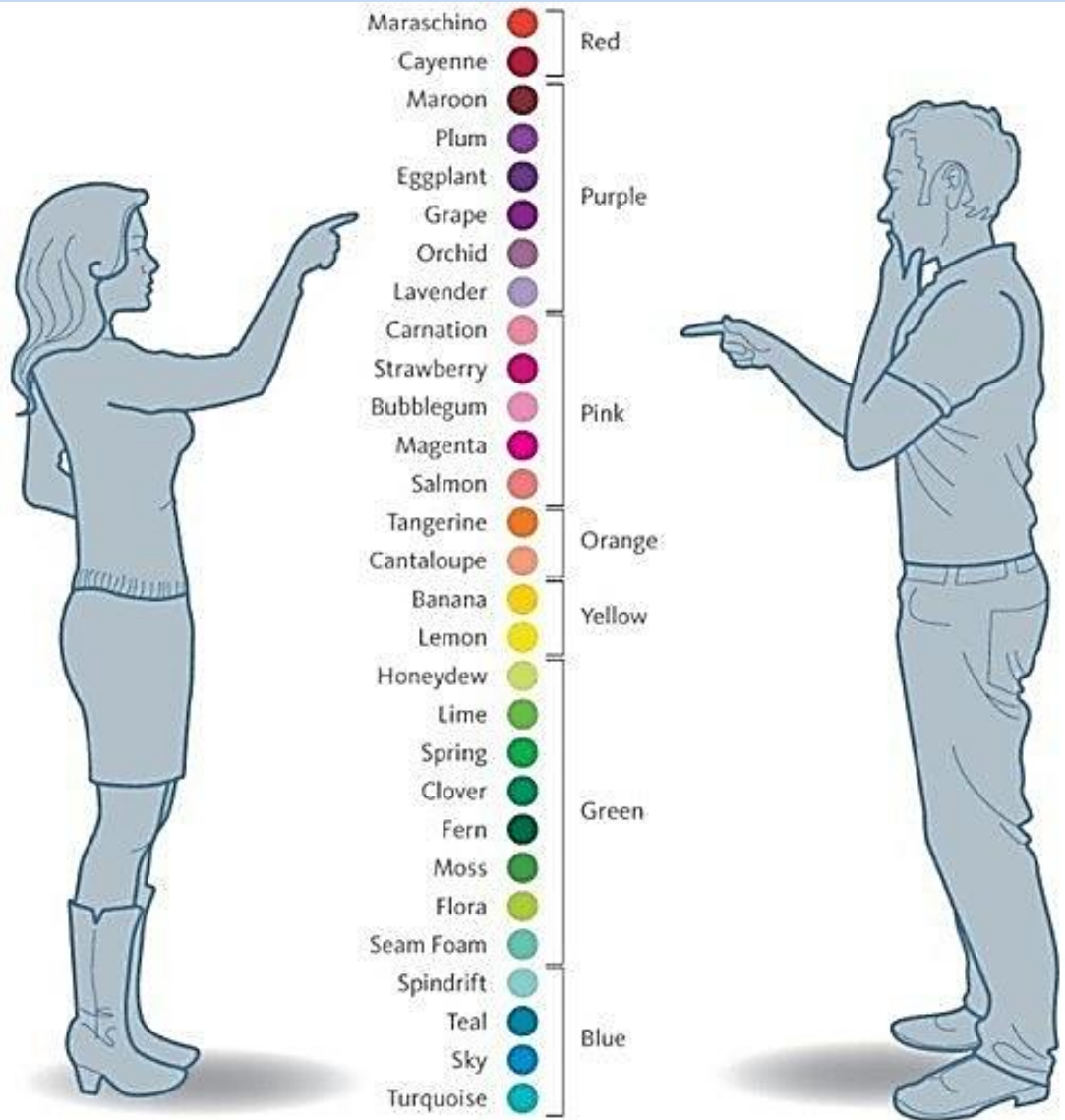
I immediately identified with this image because, apart from being a male, I am also slightly colour blind.

Many is the time I've been sent back to change an item of clothing that looked fine to me but I am assured "Simply does NOT match." I meekly obey because to argue is futile. It got me thinking about prayer though.

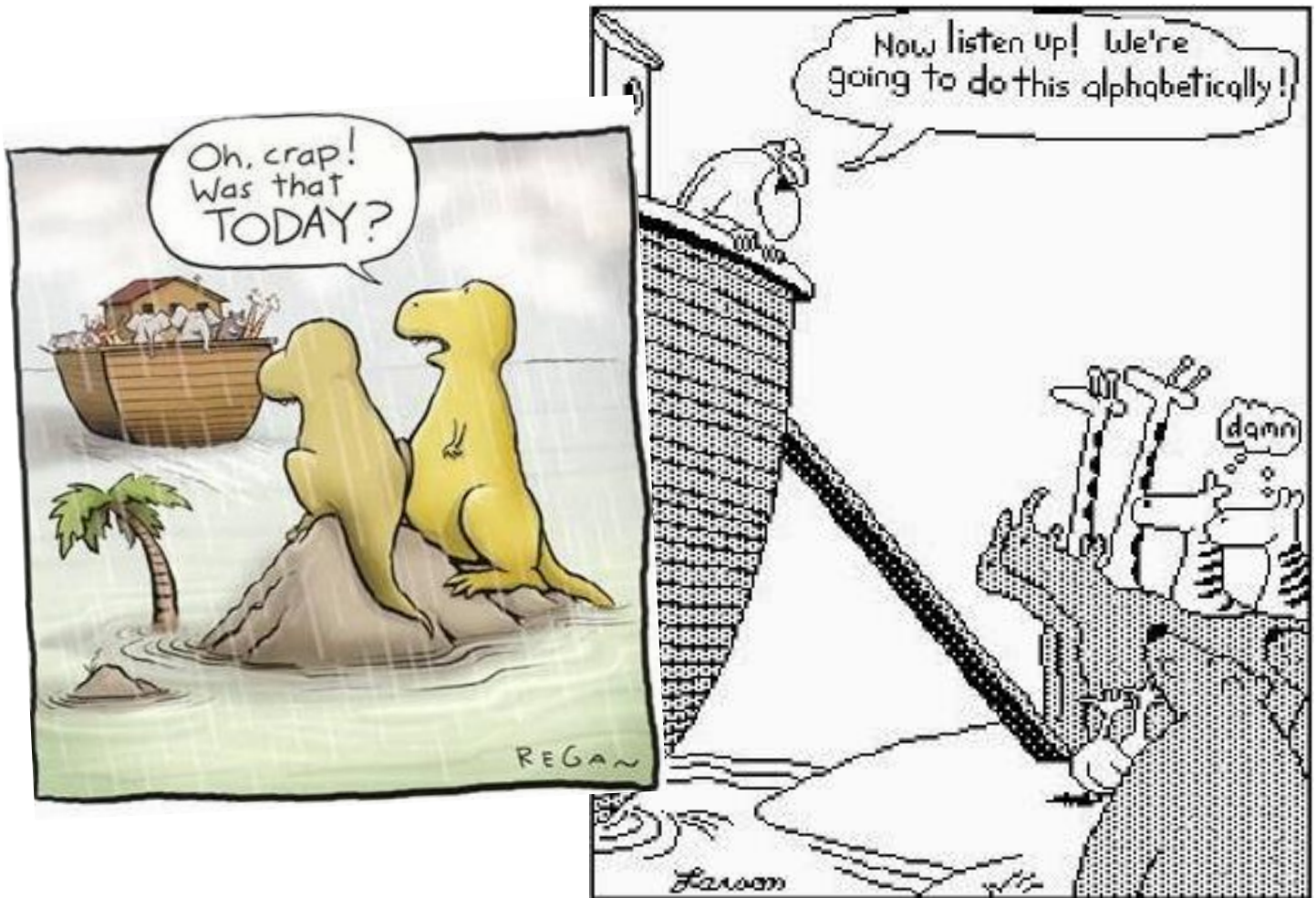
Any theologian will tell you God is neither male nor female. And that is most fortunate, because if you pray to God using all the colours of the female eye, God will understand you perfectly. But if you pray to God using the limited colours of the male palette, God will also understand you perfectly.

Romans 8:26 tells us that... *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.*

John Harris



On boarding the Ark...



Children's Power Hour - The dramatic journey

God is

A wesome

W orship/Honourable

E xcellent

S uper

O ut of the box

M ighty

E xtreme

C reator

Recently, in Power Hour, I was amazed by the children's unexpected explosion of unified creativity. Like a firecracker going off, Pop! Pop...! No hesitation.

Look at what they created in producing suitable words to describe God with a letter prompt! No adult help either...

This exciting response came immediately after being engaged with the telling of the saga of Moses and The Ten Commandments, through table-puppets and adding special features to a Mount Sinai picture. Uniting the large restless group of Israelites which he led, was no walk in the park for Moses.

As a strong hero, Moses appeals to our children who are at a stage of appreciating heroes and learning how to resolve sticky situations in a positive way.

Also, the children are used to being corrected for being unruly and encouraged to follow guidelines, until they fall-into-line. They know that when they make mistakes, they can learn to become better and achieve more, and learn to follow.

Hence, there's a strong parallel appeal with the Moses and the Ten Commandments saga. The children were fascinated with the build-up of the good team leadership of Moses and God, as they worked towards supporting and unifying the unruly Israelite group until they knew the 'rules of the game'. The Israelites already understood that they were being cared for by God who had saved them from their slavery and rough desert conditions. God made a difference in their lives. Thus, God was worthy of being honoured and followed. Intuitively, the children got it. "God is Awesome!"

The Moses and the Ten Commandments saga: As an introduction to the Moses saga, the children first experienced God's beauty and creation in nature around them, e.g., driftwood, brain coral and acorns in the image below.



The Israelites, led by Moses, were a mixed lot after being subservient to the Egyptians with their many pagan gods; some were practicing Jews and some were secular. Much like today...

Furthermore, the Israelites had

become restless and frustrated after three-months walking to Mount Sinai. They had run out of food and water but survived with Moses' and God's guidance in finding manna, migrating quails and hidden waters.

Now, Moses, decided on arrival to climb Mount Sinai for advice from God on the best way to bring together these somewhat stubborn people camped below. God recommended Moses go and ask the people if they would follow God. "Yes, we will do whatever God asks!", they shouted.

Good news! For a second time Moses climbed the mountain and he told God their answer. God said that he would now come down the mountain to meet the people in a few days.

Shocking! Disarray! With thunder, lightning and smoke God came down - but this frightened the Israelites. What! So, Moses climbed the mountain, a third time. The grumpy people's promise became false. "What's the point when the leader is always away?" Stability and security was needed but discouragement and no hope grew among them. You might even say, 'when the cat's away, the mice will play.' Moses then climbed down and told them God's rules and built a special Holy Tent to worship God. Ah, some restoration and group focus.

Enough! When Moses climbed the mountain for a fourth time and stayed away for forty days, the Israelites thought he was dead. "We shall make our own God - a golden calf and celebrate."

Meanwhile, God wrote out the Ten Commandments on two stone tablets and warned Moses of the sad news below. God became so angry he decided he didn't want this stubborn lot to be His to love. Moses became angry too, when he saw what had happened and broke the tablets to smithereens.

Desperate with anger and disappointment, Moses climbed up the mountain a fifth time, to humbly beg God to take these people back. Moses knew and honoured God and believed with all his heart that God was a just and loving God.

Again, the Ten Commandments were written on stone tablets. Moses now knew he had seen God's love, glory and forgiveness. Relief, joy and light shone all about Moses when he returned to the people. This time they obeyed God's rules and soon after they packed up to continue their journey. A good outcome of a now integrated and faithful Israelite group!

The children could feel the different emotions in Moses' struggle to bring the unruly Israelites together. In a similar way, they realised how they must work to bring a personal internal orderliness and meaning to their own lives.

It takes time, persistence and support to follow the rules which give good outcomes. The children saw that having God in their lives gave strength to them. Now they understood how awesome and mighty God can be to them, in helping them have a good life.

Susan Connell

Phil's photo – Dinosaurs roam the Hutt...

Well, just now they are, at *Whirinaki Whare Taonga* (house of treasure)(formerly 'Expressions'), 836 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt. The exhibition *Dinosaur Evolution: secrets of survival - horns, spikes, quills and feathers. The secret is in the skin...!* Open till 26 September. Entry by koha. Great place to take the grandkids...



Curious, I went to see, and what a joy it was. Life-size models of dinosaurs that roared, tossed their heads, opened their mouths to show fluoride-free teeth (in very good condition) and sweep their massive tails to whack any predator attacking from the rear.

It was a delight to travel back 100 million years, to the age when these magnificent birds and beasts ruled the world.

Along with the working models, there were skulls and skeletons. I spent a happy couple of hours photographing and reading about our world in those pre-hominid days.



There were also paintings showing (after years of research) that many of these animals had brilliant-coloured feathers and skins.



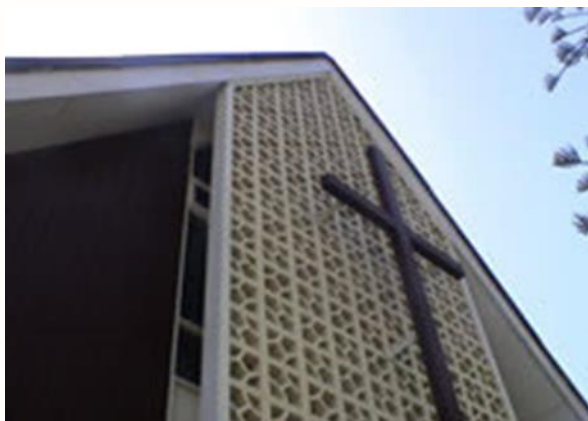
A woman approached me as I was photographing – she was from Queensland, Rose Siva. Rose told me she had written several children's adventure books (similar to *Famous Five*), suitable for reading-age children, up to about 12. Hers were modern-day adventures involving dinosaurs and fossils. I checked Rose's website www.RoseSiva.com and her books seem really good. Definitely worth a read...

So, there it is... A wonderful exhibition suitable for all and some great reading material, following my chance encounter with Rose.

When I go out photographing, a really good thing is, I get to meet some fantastic people – such as Rose...

Phil Bengé





Our God calls us to worship and grow together and to show the love of Christ through serving our community.

Directory

St Ronan's Presbyterian Church,
234 Muritai Road, Eastbourne, Lower Hutt, 5013

Local Ministry Team

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Rev Reg Weeks | 027 491 5947 | third.age@outlook.co.nz |
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| Michelle Bolger | 562 8810 | ferryroaddb@gmail.com |

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Parish Clerk | Sandy Lang |
| Hall Bookings | Sandy Lang |

Contributions for the 'Record' are most welcome
Please email them to lesmolloy7@gmail.com
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The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors
They do not necessarily represent those of St Ronan's Church

**And the closing date for our next *Record* for September 2021
Sunday 29 August 2021**